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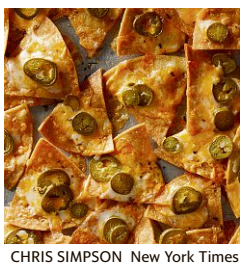
CHRIS SIMPSON New York Times

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Election 2020

We take seriously our part in telling the story of this historic election. While complete returns weren't available in time for inclusion in this print edition, subscribers will find additional analysis and results on our digital platforms:

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RACES TO WATCH
- **U.S. President:** Trump vs. Biden
- **Kentucky Legislature:** House and Senate

EPIC COUNT IS ON

CAROLYN KASTER AP
Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden visits with residents across the street from the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Aquatic Center in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday.

ALEX BRANDON AP
President Donald Trump arrives to speak at the Trump campaign headquarters on Election Day in Arlington, Virginia.

Trump, Biden locked in tight races in contested states

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN AND ALEXANDRA JAFFE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden were locked in tight races in battleground states across the country Tuesday night as they concluded an unprecedented campaign that will shape America's response to the surging pandemic and foundational questions of economic fairness and racial justice.

From coast to coast, races were too early to call in the most fiercely contested states on the map, including Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and Pennsylvania. Both candidate each picked up some predictable victories, with Trump taking states including Kansas and North Dakota and Biden's haul including Colorado and Virginia, two former battlegrounds that have become Democratic strongholds.

Americans made their choices as the nation faced a confluence of historic crises with each candidate declaring the other fundamentally unfit to navigate the challenges. Daily life has been upended by the coronavirus, which has killed more than 232,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

Millions of voters put aside worries about the virus – and some long lines – to turn out in person, joining 102 million fellow Americans who voted days or weeks earlier, a record number that represented 73% of the total vote in the 2016 presidential election.

Early results in several key battleground states were in flux as election officials processed a historically large number of mail-in votes. Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes – early or Election Day – were being reported by the states.

Biden entered Election Day with multiple paths to victory, while Trump, playing catchup in a number of battleground

SEE COUNT, 2A

McConnell brushes off McGrath and claims 7th term in Senate

BY DANIEL DESROCHERS
ddesrochers@herald-leader.com

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell brushed off a challenge by Democrat Amy McGrath Tuesday to win his seventh term as the rest of the country anxiously awaited the results of a contentious presidential election.

"Tonight, Kentuckians said we're keeping a front row seat in the Senate," McConnell said.

McConnell's status as majority leader remains up in the air. It's unclear which party will win a majority in the Senate after the COVID-19 pandemic changed voting patterns across the country and could potentially delay election results in several battleground states.

In his victory speech, McConnell warned of "grave challenges" that remain and that the next president will have to unite the country. At the same time, he offered a sharp rebuke of some issues pushed by progressive members of the Democratic Party, such as adding justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This is no time to attack our constitution like some outdated relic," McConnell said. "These are the times it was made for... this is no time to declare war on our institutions because one side is angry that the framers made it hard to achieve radical change."

In what has been a tumultuous political year, the race between McGrath and McConnell

SEE MCCONNELL, 3A

ALEX SLITZ aslitz@herald-leader.com
Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, standing with his wife, Elaine Chao, gives remarks after winning reelection over Democratic challenger Amy McGrath at the Omni Hotel in Louisville on Tuesday.

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